
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2019

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2018



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Early Childhood Iowa Initiative — Family Support and Parent Education

Overview

The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Initiative was established to allow the State and communities to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of early care, education, health, and human services provided to families with children ages zero to five. The Initiative is administered by the ECI State Board.

The ECI State Board promotes a vision for a comprehensive early care, education, health, and human services system in this State. The Board consists of 21 voting members, 15 citizen members and six State agency members. The six State agency members are the Directors or their designees from the following departments: Economic Development Authority, Education, Human Rights, Human Services, Public Health, and Workforce Development; the Board also includes four legislators as nonvoting members. For a more detailed overview of the Early Childhood Iowa Initiative, see the Budget Unit Brief “Early Childhood Iowa General Aid.”

Family Support and Parent Education

This appropriation is used for family support and parent education programs targeted at families expecting a child or with newborn and infant children through age five. Family support programs include group-based parent education or home visitation programs that are designed to strengthen protective factors including parenting skills, increasing parental knowledge of child development, and increasing family functioning and problem-solving skills. A family support program may be used as an early intervention strategy to improve birth outcomes, parental knowledge, family economic success, the home learning environment, family and child involvement with others, and coordination with other community resources. A family support program may have a specific focus on preventing child maltreatment or ensuring children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school.

Since July 1, 2016, 90.0% of State funds expended for family support programs must be evidence-based or promising program models. The remaining 10.0% of funds may be used for innovative program models that do not yet meet the definition of evidence-based or promising programs.

An evidence-based program is a program that is based on scientific evidence demonstrating that the program model is effective. An evidence-based program is to be reviewed on-site and compared to program model standards by the model developer or the developer’s designee at least once every five years to ensure that the program continues to maintain fidelity with the program model.

More Information

Early Childhood Iowa: www.earlychildhoodiowa.org
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A promising program is one that meets all of the following requirements:

- Conforms to a clear, consistent family support model that has been in existence for at least three years.
- Grounded in relevant empirically based knowledge.
- Linked to program-determined outcomes.
- Associated with a national or state organization that either has comprehensive program standards to ensure high-quality service delivery and continuous program quality improvement, or the program model has demonstrated success through benchmarks that represent significant positive outcomes equivalent to those achieved by program models with significant and sustained results published in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Awarded the Iowa Family Support Credential and has been reviewed on-site at least every five years to ensure the program's adherence to the Iowa family support standards approved by the ECI State Board created in Iowa Code section 256I.3 or a comparable set of standards. The on-site review is completed by an independent review team that is not associated with the program or the organization administering the program.

Funding

In FY 2018, ECI Preschool Assistance and ECI Family Support were not funded and the General Assembly increased the ECI General Aid appropriation by \$17.0 million.

The ECI Family Support and Parent Education effort was previously funded by a General Fund appropriation. The annual funding had been \$12.4 million since FY 2012.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [256I](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [249](#), [541—9](#)